

FIRST READING**Isaiah 35: 1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not
even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord**All: Thanks be to God****THE GOSPEL READING****Matthew 11: 2-11****All: Glory to Christ our Saviour**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ**All: Praise to Christ our Lord**

INTERCESSION

Please continue to pray for all who are sick and in our hearts especially:

Linda Hall, Jackie Morley, Logan Matthews, Sheila Gilbert, Louise Osborne, Peggy O'Neill, Dawn Tavener, Sue Vaness, Iris White, Olive Greaves,, Alan Gaywood, Michael Pritchard, Gemma O'Neil, Barrie Blewitt, Jack Sapsworth, David Winstanley, Andrea Smith. Jonathon Sieglar

Please pray for these church members at home:

Joan Hopkins, Eileen Pidgeon, Joyce Dyson,

We remember before God those who have died:

Ray Foster Jim Rioch, Jack Harris, Ray Meakins, Shirley Tessaromatis, Brian Richardson, Mary King,, Ivor Stredder, Joyce O'Callaghan, Maureen Wells

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday Advent 3	11 th December	8.00am 9.30am 11.15am 6.30pm	BCP Communion Parish Communion Parish Centre Service Youth Club Party
Tuesday	13 th December	10.15am	Buggy Group
Wednesday	14 th December	10.15am	Parish Centre Communion
Thursday	15 th December	10.00am 8.00pm	Coffee Morning Advent Reflections Parish Centre
Friday	16 th December	8.00pm	Carol Service by Candlelight
Sunday Advent 4	18 th December	9.30am 11.15am 6.30pm	Parish Communion Parish Centre Service with Sunday School Carol Service by Candlelight

NOTICES

Church Decoration for Christmas. If you are willing to help with the church floral decoration will you please sign the list in the Cross Aisle. Arrangements need to be done before the Carol Service on Friday the 16th December and can be done any time during that week. Thank you.

Christmas bows will be available in a box in the cross aisle during December in aid of the Hospice. Please give to this worthwhile charity. Thank you.

Church Coffee Proceeds for October, November and December will support the charity Clicsargent helping children and young people with cancer. (nearest hospital I (GOSH) Great Ormond St.) www.clicsargent.org.uk Thank you .

Future dates for your diary.

22nd December Advent reflections led by Paolo in the Parish Centre at 8.00pm



Welcome to St Margaret's Church, Streatley

Advent 3
11th December 2016

Leader Steve Wood
Preacher Paolo Di Leo

We extend a very warm welcome to all visitors and those new to the Church. Please make yourselves known to the vicar Steve Wood, assistant Curate Paolo Di Leo, reader Teresa Dales or our Churchwardens Dorothy Iszatt and John Farrent.



There is a loop system and large print hymn books are available from the sidesmen.

You are all invited to come to the altar at the time of the Communion. Members of other churches who would receive at their own church are welcome to take the bread and wine with us. If you do not receive communion, please come up to receive a blessing keeping your hands down. If you would like communion brought to you please tell one of the sidesmen.

After the service we serve coffee and we invite you to join us. We welcome all ages and for the very young there is also a children's area

Hymns Old and New – 196 – 329 – 513 – 519 - 447

COLLECT

**O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you;
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient
to the wisdom of the just;
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy spirit,
one God, now and for ever. *Amen***